

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, November 29, 1880, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell. L Bailey's Hotel, Glo'ster Road, Queen's Gate, S. W., London, Nov. 29th, 1880. My address will be Great Northern Hotel, Leeds. Telegraph as where I am to be in London on my return. AGB My darling little girl:

I must send you a few lines before starting for Leeds although I fear my letter will hardly reach you before you will be on your way to England. I have been hard at work experimenting all day at the Royal Institution with Prof. Tyndall. I lunched there with Prof. Tyndall and Mrs. Tyndall, her father Lord Claude Hamilton and her sister. The experiments were very satisfactory and a new experiment was made at Tyndall's suggestion which was a success. It was to fill a test tube with a transparent absorbant vapour and submit it to the action of an intermittent light. At Tyndall's suggestion we filled it with the vapour of sulphuric ether and at once heard a clear musical tone, whereas the test tube with simply air in it gave no appreciable sound.

Tyndall seems to think this conclusive that the action is strictly molecular.

It was delightful to see another man get excited over my experiments. Warren de la Rue and Prof. Dewar were also present during the course of the day and Mr. Cottrell (Prof. Tyndall's assistant).

I spoke to Tyndall about my idea of transmitting fog-signals through the water of the ocean and he thinks highly of the idea. He says he has already suggested to the Light-House Board that experiments should be made to ascertain the practicability of water acoustics for this purpose. He is much struck by the idea of listening for an echo from the bottom of the ocean and thus determining the depth without sounding line — and says the experiment should be made. Altogether I have been much pleased with my Tyndall

Library of Congress

visit. Prof. Tyndall wants your address so that Mrs. Tyndall may call upon you when you come to London. I promised to send it to him the moment the address was decided upon. I am anxious for news of Charlie. Although I am anxious to see him up I do not coincide in Berta's wish that "every day may be his last"! (Sic)

With much love, Your husband, Alec. Mrs. A. G. Bell, 8 Rue Cambon.